

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (previously presented): A communication device comprising:

a keyboard having at least twenty six keys that are each labeled with a different letter of the alphabet and with an assigned number and configured to generate an output signal;
a processor for converting the output signal into a character code;
means for converting the output signal into a telephony tone signal;
software applications stored by the communication device and executed by the processor;

and

a keyboard mode control software module that automatically controls whether the keyboard output signals from the keys are converted into character codes or telephony tone signals based on which of the plurality of software applications is active.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The device of claim 42 wherein the numbers 2-9 are assigned respectively to keys labeled A-C, D-F, G-I, J-L, M-O, P-S, T-V and W-Z.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The device of claim 42 wherein the keys are arranged in a QWERTY configuration.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The device of claim 42 further including a display configured to display the character codes.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The device of claim 42 further including a mode key with which a user can switch conversion of the output signals from telephony signals to character codes.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A communication device comprising:

a keyboard having at least twenty six keys that are each labeled with a different letter of the alphabet and each assigned a number; and

means for generating, for each key pressed by a user, a telephony tone signal corresponding to the number assigned to the pressed key.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The device of claim 47 wherein the numbers 2-9 are respectively assigned to keys A-C, D-F, G-I, J-L, M-O, P-S, T-V and W-Z.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The device of claim 47 wherein the keys are arranged in a QWERTY configuration.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The device of claim 47 wherein each key is labeled with its assigned number.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A communication device including:

a keyboard with letters arranged in a QWERTY configuration, each of the letters being assigned a number in the range 0-9;

the device being operative, for each letter pressed by a user, to communicate the number assigned to the pressed letter.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The device of claim 51 wherein the numbers 2-9 are assigned respectively to letters A-C, D-F, G-I, J-L, M-O, P-S, T-V and W-Z.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The device of claim 51 wherein the communicating of the numbers is through telephony tone signals.

Claims 54-55 (canceled)